

from Wayland Town Report  
1886

## REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Your Committee hereby present their annual report for the year ending February 28th, 1886.

The report of the Librarian, hereto annexed, contains much valuable information, to which your attention is called.

At the beginning of the municipal year your Committee learned with regret, that Mr. James S. Draper declined a re-election as Librarian. This action on his part was not taken for lack of interest, but that, after a service of twenty years, advancing age called a halt. His long and faithful services justly merit our warmest praise. It is a matter of congratulation that we have so long had the benefit of his system and method, which has largely contributed to the success of the library and substantial aid to its patrons. To him his duties were a labor of love, having in view the permanent good of the institution he so fondly cherished.

It could not be expected that we could secure a successor who could, immediately, at least, fill the position as Mr. Draper had.

Your Committee appointed Mrs. Sarah E. Heard, and we can cheerfully say she has done excellently well for one new to the duties of the office; and we have reason to believe that, with further experience, her continued success will prove her eminently fitted for the place.

The annual examination of the Library was made January 1886; and we find in many instances the books have been misused during the year, and we have been able to trace this wrong to a comparatively small number of patrons. It should be remembered that the Library belongs to the town, and that the books are loaned to the citizens on conditions, one of which is careful treatment, and when this condition is violated the right to borrow is, for a time at least, forfeited. The Committee will be

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pelled to debar those who misuse the books from the privileges of the Library.

During the past year three hundred and fifty-four books have been added, by gift, exchange and purchase—making the total number of volumes now in the Library 9,862.

We are pleased to state that the circulation of the Library has increased largely during the year. There has been taken out eleven thousand four hundred and eighty-three volumes, being two thousand four hundred more than last year. This is very satisfactory and encouraging. We are glad to know that our people are reading more; that the Library is appreciated; that the books upon its shelves are not mere ornaments, but treasures of knowledge and living thought; that, if our people continue to seek after the good to be found in this free institution, it must result in mental and moral improvement, and also that the administration of the Library is approved by our fellow citizens.

R. T. LOMBARD,  
ISAAC DAMON,  
EMILY A. HEARD,  
ELLEN M. BRAMAN.

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